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LOADED BIBLE™

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BLOOD OF MY BLOOD

WRITERS: STEVE ORLANDO & TIM SEELEY

ARTIST: GIUSEPPE CAFARO

COLORIST: JOSH RODRIGUEZ

LETTERERS: FABIO AMELIA & MAURIZIO CLAUSI

COVER ARTIST: MIRKA ANDOLFO

EDITOR: DAVIDE G.G. CACI

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: ANTONIO SOLINAS & DANIELE MITTICA

DESIGNER: FABRIZIO VERROCCHI

Loading.

Loading.

Loaded: **Bible.**

"THIS IS A *PARABLE* FOR OUR TIMES.

"A STORY OF A *WAR* WAGED FOR THE *SOUL.*

"IT IS A *TALE* OF SOJOURNERS.

"PILGRIMS.

THRRRMBBBL

"OF THE *LOST* AND *DOWNTRODDEN,* SEEKING A NEW LIFE...

"...AND HOW THOSE *SOCIETAL FUCKIN' LEECHES* ARE ALWAYS ASKING FOR A HANDOUT...

THRRMMM

"...WHEN THEY *SHOULD* BE RESPECTING THE *ALPHAS.*"

OH GOD...

THE CHURCH.

"LOOK, *SOMEONE'S* GOTTA *TELL IT* LIKE IT *IS.*

"IN THE BEGINNING, *GOD* CREATED *HEAVEN* AND *EARTH.* BACK THEN...

"...*EARTH* WAS WITHOUT FORM AND *DARKNESS* WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP.

"THEN *GOD* MOVED OVER THE WATERS. *HE* SAID, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT,' AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

"AND *THEN* GOD SAID...

"...GIVE ME SOME *RIGHTEOUS FUCKING SOLDIERS* TO DELIVER MY *LAW* TO THE *DEGENERATE UNWASHED...*"

AND **HERE** *WE ARE, SIMPS!*

PLEASE! WE--WE *JUST* WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE! BUT...

BUT WE *BELIEVE!* WE *PROMISE!* JUST IN OUR *OWN* WAY!

THAT *RIGHT?* YOU EXPECT ME TO THINK YOU BUGGERING *SNAKEFUCKERS* KNOW THE *TRUTH?*

WHY, BECAUSE YOU CAN *LOOK TO THE SKY?* GOD HASN'T BEEN THERE IN *YEARS.*

LIKE THE *RED POPE* SAYS. THESE DAYS...

...HE'S AT THE *END* OF A *BARREL.*

BIG THREATS. BIG GUN. BIG MOUTH.

WATCH IT, *BIG* MAN...

...THAT'S MY **FATHER** YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

SKY SAVIOR 7: DEPLOYING MESSIAH.

GET *BEHIND* ME...

IT'S *SAFE* THERE.

JESUS...

WHO THE *HELL* IS THAT?

NOBODY. HE'S NO *CHRIST.*

JUST A *CLONE* TROTTED OUT FOR THE *SHEEP.* ATHEIST PROPAGANDA WITH *BAD WIRING.*

A *CHRISTIAN IN NAME ONLY.*

IT *IS* MY NAME. AND YOU'RE *RIGHT.* I *AM* THE *SON OF GOD'S CLONE.*

BUT THOSE *NEW VATICAN* SCIENTISTS MADE ME *TOO WELL.*

WHEN I SEE PEOPLE LIKE *YOU,* SOMETHING COMES OVER ME. I FIGURE...

...A *LOW TOLERANCE* FOR *BULLSHIT* MUST BE PART OF MY *GENETIC MEMORY.*

"GOD SAID-- LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, SEED, AND FRUIT.

"AND TO EAT THE FRUIT, BUT NOT BE ONE, YOU--"

KRACK

THAT WASN'T HIM.

THOK

"AND HE SAID, LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH THE FOWL, THE CATTLE, AND THE WH--"

IT WAS MEN.

--AILRGHK!

KRK

HE MIGHT LET YOU PUT WORDS IN HIS MOUTH.

HE LETS YOU GET AWAY WITH PLENTY.

TOO BAD FOR YOU...

GHOK

...I WON'T.

IT'S ALL OKAY. I PROMISE.

AND AS FOR THE REDEEMERS? WHEN THEY COME BACK...

...WE WON'T BE HERE.

YOU THINK YOU'RE UNWANTED. YOU BELIEVE YOU'RE UNLOVED.

BUT YOU ARE BLOOD OF MY BLOOD. TAKE MY HAND...

WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS? THOSE ARE REDEEMERS! THE CHURCH'S METAMILITIA!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO THEM! THEY-- THEY'LL SEND MORE TO KILL US!

...AND I'LL TAKE US HOME.

HAHURRHURRGLLHAHAH÷÷

HURRGLLLLHAHAHAHAH

AAAAIIIEEE!

THAT'S NEW. BUT SO IS THIS.

NANOTECH SWITCHSWORD. MOLECULAR TITANIUM BLADE. CUTS TO THE ATOM.

SHE'LL DRIVE OUT WHATEVER DEMONS *YOU'RE* HIDING AND LOOK *GOOD* DOING IT.

CALL HER "THE MAGDALENE."

VRRRRRRNNNN

NNYAAOOAAAAAARARRR

SHNNG

HARGHK!

PLAP

SIZZLEPLAP

PLOP

...YOU'RE *VAMPIRES.*

HOW COULD YOU WORK FOR THE *NEW VATICAN?!*

HAVE-- HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

THERE'S *A NEW, TRUE* TESTAMENT.

WE ARE *UNITED* AS THE ANTERAPTUROUS *CHOSEN.*

THE *MANY.* THE *MORAL.* THE *MENACE* TO *SINNERS* AND *STRAGGLERS.*

SO SAYS OUR ONE TRUE SAVIOR, THE *RED POPE* HIMSELF...

FATHER DRACULA!!

FSSST

FUCK ME. A *NEWER* TESTAMENT...

...ACCORDING TO THE *IMPALER.*

VAMPIRE CLANS... AND THE CHURCH?

THEY'VE BEEN AT WAR MY WHOLE LIFE...WHAT THE HELL COULD BRING THEM TOGETHER?

YOU.

AND PEOPLE *LIKE* YOU...WHO *RESIST.*

RESIST? WE'RE JUST TRYING TO *LIVE!*

ALL WE *CARED* ABOUT WAS GETTING *OUT.*

SURVIVING... AWAY FROM *THEM.*

BETTER EVEN A FEW DAYS AS OURSELVES THAN A *LIFETIME* LIVING A LIE.

CHURCH LAWS HOLD NO *SWAY* OUT HERE, MY FRIENDS.

IF THEY WANT TO *GET* TO YOU...

THEY'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME.

THERE *IS A PLACE* FOR YOU ALL AMONG THE *SAVED.*

I'LL *TAKE* YOU THERE, I'LL *SHOW* YOU...

"...AT THE *RELIQUARY.*"

RELIQUARY? ISN'T THAT WHERE YOU KEEP *BONES?*

WHERE YOU KEEP *PRECIOUS* THINGS.

MY *COUSIN* AND I BUILT IT FROM THE *WRECK* OF ONE OF THE OLD *STELLAR MISSIONS.*

NOW COME ON. THERE'S SOME *PEOPLE* INSIDE I'D LIKE YOU TO--

STOP! ALL OF YOU!

ARE YOU CLAIMING *SAVED* STATUS?

EASE OFF, SENTRY. THEY'RE *SAVED.*

DO THEY *LOOK* LIKE *NEW VATICAN* TYPES?

APOLOGIES. THEY GET *TESTY* WHEN I'M OUT ON A *RUN.*

IT'S SO *BIG*...I NEVER THOUGHT THERE COULD BE *THIS MANY* OF US...

WHAT CAN I SAY? *FREEDOM'S* CONTAGIOUS...

...EVEN WHEN IT'S A *COMMODITY.* ESPECIALLY THEN.

LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND.

LORD JESUS...

JUST JESUS. WE'RE ALL *EQUAL* HERE.

HOW COULD YOU BUILD ALL THIS, UNDER THE EYES OF THE CHURCH?

THEY'RE NOT LOOKING *TOO* HARD. THEY'D RATHER *IGNORE* THEIR MISTAKES, AND *I'M* THEIR BIGGEST ONE.

SURELY THE *IMPALER* WON'T BE SO *PASSIVE.*

DRACULA IS A SURPRISE, THAT'S *TRUE...*

"...I NEVER THOUGHT THE *CHURCH* WOULD BE SO *DESPERATE.*"

I *TRUST* YOU'VE COME WITH NEWS...

New Vatican City.

Castle Dracula.

...LEST YOU'D OFFER YOUR *THROAT.*

SING, MY *CARDINALS.*

THE *REDEEMERS* ARE *DUST* IN THE *SUN.*

BUT THE *LAST* THEIR BODYCAMS SHOWED, THEIR *HIT* ON THE *UNFORTUNATES* WAS DERAILED...

...BY *JESUS.*

THAT *CLONE*...ALL THE *SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.* NONE OF THE *SUFFERING.*

WE'RE *SORRY,* FATHER. WE SHOULD HAVE DONE *MORE* TO--

AN *APOLOGY?*

The Reliquary.

"YOU *DEBASE* YOURSELF AS IF WE'VE *FAILED.*"

YOU'RE *SURE* YOU CAN PROTECT US *ALL* FROM DRACULA?

...IT...IT'S ABRAHAM.

...WHAT DO THEY *CALL* YOU?

I KNOW *THIS,* ABRAHAM...

THE CHURCH LETTING DRACULA *PONTIFY* GOES AGAINST *EVERYTHING* THEY CLAIM TO BELIEVE.

THAT JUST SHOWS HOW *AFRAID* THEY'VE BECOME OF US...AND WHAT WE'VE *MADE.*

OUR RULES ARE *SIMPLE* HERE. *LOVE* YOURSELF...

...*LOVE* YOUR NEIGHBOR.

WHAT DID THEY *FORSAKE* YOU FOR, ABRAHAM?

I...I *SOLD* MYSELF. TO MEN. *CHURCH* MEN...I WAS *JUST* TRYING TO STAY OFF THE *STREETS.*

IN AN *EQUITABLE* WORLD, YOU'D NEVER HAVE *BEEN* THERE.

HERE, YOUR *PAST* WON'T BE *JUDGED...*

"...AND YOUR *FUTURE* WILL BE *CELEBRATED.*"

New Vatican City.

NO, FA-- FATHER!

THE *WORLD* YOU BUILT IN MY *ABSENCE* IS *NOT* WHAT I ONCE *CHAMPIONED.*

YOUR SOCIETY IS A SHAMBLING CORPSE, AND I ALONE CAN FIX IT.

I ALONE COULD UNITE OUR CLANS UNDER A HEEL...

AGHK!

...BOTH VAMPIRE AND *BELIEVER.*

THUD

YOU *RAISED* ME. FOR *THAT,* YOU ARE MY *SAVIOR.*

I AM RED POPE. FOR *THAT,* YOU ARE MY *FOLLOWER.*

I ONCE *FOUGHT* FOR GOD AND LOST *EVERYTHING* FOR IT.

HE TOOK *MY* FAMILY, MY *SON.* BUT NOW, HE'S *TOLD* ME...

"...I MAY TAKE HIS *OWN* IN RETURN."

AGES AGO, THE CHURCH LAUNCHED THESE *CATHEDRAL SHIPS* INTO SPACE TO *SPREAD* THE *GOOD WORD.*

BUT THE *WORD* WASN'T AS *WELCOME* AS THEY HOPED. NOW, WHERE THEY SEE A *SHIPWRECK...*

...WE SEE A *BEACON* OF HOPE.

ONE THAT'S *HIGHLY DEFENSIBLE.*

THIS IS *NOT* NEW VATICAN CITY. WHAT'S *OURS* IS YOURS.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO HERE IS *LIVE...*

...AND LET *OTHERS* DO THE SAME.

THIS MAY NOT BE MY *BLOOD,* BUT IT *IS* A COVENANT.

KNOW THAT THOUGH THE *STORM* MAY ALWAYS BE RISING AGAINST US...

...I WILL *DEFEND* YOU FROM IT TO MY LAST BREATH.

"I WILL *NEVER* HURT YOU."

SPLORCH

FATH...FATHER *DRACULA*...

WHY?

HOW MANY *MILLIONS* HAS GOD TAKEN AT RANDOM? AND STILL, YOU DO NOT QUESTION HIM.

BUT YOU... YOU'RE NOT--

OF COURSE. I AM *MERELY* HIS HUMBLE SERVANT, AS ARE WE ALL. SO *BE* ONE...

...AND CLEANSE THIS *MESS.* TAKE YOUR *FRIEND* FOR PROCESSING. THE *WALLS* MUST BE *FED.*

AND AS FOR *WHY?*

I *WILL* OFFER YOU THE COMPASSION OF AN *ANSWER,* EVEN IF *HE* OFTEN DEIGNS NOT.

THIS *DEATH* EXPRESSES A *HARSH* TRUTH. AS WE FIGHT TO SAVE THIS WAYWARD WORLD...

"...NO *WAR* IS WON WITHOUT *SACRIFICE.*"

HERE, TAKE *THESE.* MY *COUSIN* SPLICED IN AGAVE AND EXTREMOPHILIC BACTERIUM.

THEY'RE *RADIATION* RESISTANT, AND *SAFE* TO EAT.

YOU...YOU WERE THE CHURCH'S *TOP COP,* NOW YOU'RE OUT HERE GROWING *CACTUS PEARS?*

PTOO

GROWING *COMMUNITY.* AFTER ALL, WE ONLY HAVE *STORIES* OF THE ORIGINAL.

BUT *MEN* TELL STORIES. AND *MEN* CLONE MESSIAHS.

"THE *NEW VATICAN* WANTED ME TO BE THEIR *STONE-THROWER.*

"BUT *HOW* COULD I FOLLOW THAT ORDER...

"...WHEN IT *CAME* FROM WITHIN A *GLASS HOUSE?*

"ANYONE WHO'D TELL *ME* TO INFLICT *PAIN* IN THEIR NAME...

"...DOESN'T *KNOW* WHO THEY BROUGHT BACK."

GRRROOOAARR

JEEEEZZUZZZ!

THE *SIZE* OF HIM...HE'S *BEHEMOTH-CLASS.*

GET TO **SAFETY!** GO!

BRING BLOOD!

CHOM!

BRING JEEZUZ BLOOD!

SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT, ABRAHAM...

ME... YOU...

...AND THE MAGDALENE.

GIVE BODY! GIVE HOLY WIGHT MEAT!

BLOOD IS THE LIFE!

"BLOOD IS THE MIGHT!"

BENNET...

IT'S THAT CLONE...

SPLASH

WHEN YOU *FIRST* PULLED ME FROM THE DARK, I WAS WITHOUT PURPOSE.

THE *RESURRECTION MASS* HAD WORKED IN *BODY*, BUT NOT YET IN *SOUL*.

THEN, SOMETHING *MIRACULOUS* HAPPENED. FOR THE *FIRST* TIME IN AGES...

...GOD *SPOKE* TO ME. FROM *HIM* PASSED HIS *NEWEST TESTAMENT*.

IT WAS *THEN* MY SOUL WAS TRULY REBORN...

...WITH *RIGHTEOUS PURPOSE*.

YOU WERE *RIGHT* TO CALL ME BACK TO LIFE AFTER SO LONG...

"...GOD ASSURED ME OF THAT.

"THIS CLONED MESSIAH IS AN INSULT.

"YES, YOU CREATED HIM. BUT WITH FAITH, YOUR ACTIONS CAN BE FORGIVEN.

"HIS EXISTENCE CANNOT.

"TO REDEEM OUR CHURCH, I MUST START WITH YOUR GREATEST SIN.

"GOD TOOK MY FAMILY."

STOP! YOU'RE HURTING HIM!

NO!

SLERK

"BUT NOW, THANKS TO YOUR DESECRATION OF HIS OWN...

"HE'LL PRAISE ME WHEN I KILL HIS SON..."

"BLOOD FOR BLOOD."

SPLOSH

2

New Vatican City.

Castle Dracula.

AND WHAT OF YOUNG ABRAHAM?

THE...*YOUR* FEINT WITH THE FALSE MESSIAH WAS SUCCESSFUL, FATHER DRACULA.

THE *METAMILITIA'S* SACRIFICE WAS *SUFFICIENT* FOR ABRAHAM TO *INFILTRATE* THE *CLONE'S* CIRCLE.

HIS *INFUSER* HAS *SIGNALED.* WE KNOW HE'S *ACTIVATED* YOUR BLOOD.

BUT *SUNRISE* APPROACHES...

...AND HE'S *YET* TO RETURN.

HE WILL. ABRAHAM *BELIEVES* IN OUR NEW, TRUE TESTAMENT.

THE *NIGHT* REMAINS *YOUNG ENOUGH.* THERE IS STILL *TIME*...

"...FOR HIM TO DELIVER THE *BLOOD OF CHRIST.*"

The Reliquary.

AAAAAIIEEEEEEE

THUD

HUMAN MEAT WANT SAVIORRRR...

"...BUT HE NO CAN SAVE HIMSELF."

OF COURSE, FATHER. ABRAHAM WILL RETURN BY DAYBREAK.

YOU WILL NOT BE DENIED YOUR PRIZE.

AND IT WILL BE A PRIZE.

I WAS DISCOURAGED TO HEAR THE FLUIDS OF EVEN A CLONED JESUS HARM OUR KIND.

ABRAHAM HAS BEEN TEMPERED WITH MY OWN STRENGTH. BUT THAT WILL ONLY LET HIM CARRY THE CLONE'S BLOOD IN HIS GUT FOR SO LONG.

YOU'RE ALL SO FRAGILE. HUMAN AND VAMPIRE ALIKE.

HURGHK!

AGHK!

THIS IS A NEW AGE. TWO SPECIES STAND UNITED IN MY NAME.

BUT NO MATTER THE CLAN, SURVIVING...

...IS SO OFTEN NOT HOW YOU'RE ALL THE MOST USEFUL.

SLUMP

The Reliquary.

BLOOD MINE!

BODY MINE SOON. FEAST. STILL WILL FEAST ON MEAT...

...ON EVERY... BODY.

THE--THEN YOU BETTER GET READY TO CHOKE ON US ALL, MONSTER!

HEAR THAT, ABRAHAM?

THEY'RE AFRAID. HELL, I'M AFRAID. BUT WE'VE RUN FROM THE CHURCH LONG ENOUGH.

WE'RE ALL DONE WITH THAT. THIS IS THE PLACE WE STAND OUR GROUND...

AND BY MY HAND OR THEIRS...

...YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE.

SNORT

YOU SURE, MESSIAH MEAT?

WHAM!

CRONCH

ARE YOU?!

WE... WE'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM.

COULD WE? LOOK AT THAT *THING.*

I *CAN* HELP...

"...BUT *NOT* BY STANDING HERE.

"AND NOT *ALONE.*"

THERE'S BEEN AN *ATTACK!* A *BEHEMOTH-CLASS* VAMPIRE *INSIDE* THE CAMP!

YOUR *COUSIN'S* BEEN *WOUNDED!*

JESUS IS IN TROUBLE?

"YOU BETTER COME IN."

BLOOD OF HIS BLOOD!

THERE'S NO *TIME!* WE'VE *GOT* TO--

WELCOME TO *THE MISSION,* KID. AND SKIP THE *EPITHET*...IT'S *JOHN.*

JOHN THE MECHANIC.

I KEEP THINGS *RUNNING* AROUND HERE. MACHINES. MESSIAHS...

...AND *MONSTERS* WHO MISBEHAVE.

YOU SAID *BEHEMOTH-CLASS?* THOSE POOR BASTARDS NEVER LAST *LONG*...

...BUT *LONG* ENOUGH TO DO SOME *HEAVY* BLOODLETTING.

HERE. TAKE *THESE.*

KNIVES? IS THIS SOME TYPE OF OLD *SILVER?*

FOSSILIZED HAWTHORN WOOD.

PRESSURE TREATED IN MY GRAVITY FORGE.

DOUBLE-POTENT. HARDER AND MORE TOXIC THAN SILVER OR WOOD.

TAKE YOUR *STAKE,* EACH OF YOU. TAKE A *FEW.* I'LL BE FINE...

THUD

I'M KEEPING THE *BIG GUN* FOR MYSELF.

READY?

"LET'S GO SAVE A SAVIOR."

KA-CHOK

FHRAAAAAAARGH

KNEEL, JEEZUS!

STILL OWE ME--

CRUNCH

--FLESH?

NO...SUN COME.

THAT'S RIGHT, ABRAHAM. YOU DRANK MY BLOOD...

...GOOD LUCK GETTING AWAY WITH IT.

POK

POK

POK

POK

POK

VAMPIRE INCURSION! WE'VE GOT OUR STANDING ORDERS!

CUT HIM DOWN! HOLD HIM FOR THE LIGHT!

TAKE MORE THAN RAIN, PINKSACKS!

I NO DISAPPOINT FATHER DRACU--

CHOT

--LARGHK!

SIZZZZZLE

GET HIM!

STAKE THAT FUCKING TURNCOAT!

STAB

STAB

PINS NOT BURN ENOUGH! SUN COME TOO SLOW!

YOU NEVER HOLD ME!

MAYBE. BUT YOU'RE THE ONE ON THE CLOCK. US?

WE'RE FRESH. WE'RE HIGHLY MOTIVATED. WE'VE GOT STAKES...

"...AND NOTHING BUT TIME."

FWASHOOOH

YOU *KNOW* WHO *THAT'S* FOR, TRASH.

JESUS'S *BLOOD'S* SECURE. BUT HIS *WOUNDS*...

PTOO

I KNOW. HOW COULD EVEN *HE*--

AAAAAARRGHK

--SURVIVE?

The Mission.

The Heart of the Cathedral Ship.

GET ME THE *SOPORIFIC!* WE'VE GOT TO *STABILIZE* HIM!

JOHN...

HEY. HEY...EYES ON *ME,* COUSIN.

YOU'RE *BIT.* BEHEMOTH-CLASS. ANYONE *ELSE* WOULD BE POPPING LIKE A *BLOOD BLISTER* RIGHT NOW.

BUT DON'T WORRY. *MY* SIDE OF THE FAMILY'S GOT *CENTURIES* OF EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH *MORTALITY.*

FTIK

REST... I'LL PATCH YOU UP.

RIGHT. THOSE WERE *NICE WORDS* FOR OUR *OPTIMISTIC* SAVIOR TO NOD OFF TO.

THE *REALITY* IS--HE'S LOST A *LOT* OF BLOOD. AND WHAT BLOOD HE *HAS* IS BUSY FIGHTING OFF *VAMPIRIC* INFECTION.

SO, ROLL UP YOUR *SLEEVES,* PEOPLE.

IF WE WANT JESUS TO *LIVE...*

New Vatican City.

"...WE'RE *ALL* GOING TO HAVE TO *GIVE* A LITTLE."

THOSE YOUR *RATIONS?*

FEELS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN *BIGGER* SINCE *FATHER DRACULA* STEPPED INTO THE HAT.

MAYBE... BUT WHO *KNOWS* WHAT WE'RE EATING.

WHO *CARES?* THE *RED POPE'S* RATIONS COME FROM *ON HIGH.*

IF IT WASN'T *CHURCH APPROVED,* IT WOULDN'T BE IN THE *BOX.*

food

food

SEE THOSE TWO? BRING UP THEIR *REPORTS.*

LAST CONFESSION: FOUR DAYS. WAITING ON BIOMETRICS...

"CARDIOTHORACIC HISTORY SHOW *LIES* UNCONFESSED.

"AUDIO RECORDS SHOW LIGHT VERBAL *BLASPHEMY.* NOT GREAT...

"...BUT *WITHIN* THE RED POPE'S NEW MORALITY THRESHOLD."

I WASN'T SURE ABOUT DRACULA. BUT HE'S NOT PART OF THE *SYSTEM.* NOT A VATICAN *LIFER.*

HE'S MADE *REAL* CHANGES.

NO! GET *AWAY* FROM ME!

DON'T *RUN* FROM THIS! BE A *MAN!*

FUCK *OFF*, MOTHER! LIKE *YOU'VE* NEVER DONE--

-- IT?

SHE'S NOT UP FOR *REVIEW*, KID.

KA-CHUK

DON'T MOVE.

01212050540430404000580028102102104305600450460320055054050405005121246406440650654064064044640

YOU *SEEING* THIS?

CAN'T MISS *THOSE* NUMBERS. HE'S *WAY* BEYOND THE *THRESHOLD.*

FINE! I'M *OVERDUE* TO *CONFESS.* I'LL *GO!* I'LL GO RIGHT NOW!

TOO LATE. YOUR CONFESSION CURVES ARE *WAY* OUT OF WHACK.

WHAT WE *KNOW* YOU DID AND WHAT YOU *ADMIT* TO DOING CAN'T BE RECTIFIED BY *MERCY* AT THIS POINT.

I-- I'LL *STOP!* I'LL--

BAM

AND THAT WAS *BEFORE* DECIDED TO *JERK OFF* TODAY. *HORMONES* DON'T LIE.

THAT'S *CORPORAL PENITENCE* YOU'RE FEELING, YOU HAIRY-PALMED WEIRDO.

NOW *KNEEL.* CONSIDER THE *PAIN.* AND *STAY* THERE...

"...DON'T MAKE US LOOK *BAD* IN FRONT OF THE *RED POPE.*"

THEY *LAP* IT UP. THE *VIOLENCE.* THE *SANCTIMONY.* IF ONLY I'D SEEN IT SOONER.

HUMAN OR VAMPIRE...

...THEY *ALL* WANT *BLOOD.*

A SAVAGE SOCIETY ONLY I CAN DELIV--

ERGHK!

FATHER DRACULA!

PAPA ROSSO! ARE YOU HURT?

SWALLOW THAT QUESTION, BIRD!

THE RED POPE HURTS ONLY WHEN HIS FLOCK IS WOUNDED. THE PAIN I FEEL IS THAT OF OTHERS.

MY BLOOD HAS ALWAYS ANSWERED FIRST TO ME, EVEN IN THE VEINS OF MY LINE.

ABRAHAM, WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY TO DEFEND US AGAINST THE UNFORTUNATES...

...HAS FALLEN.

"AND WITH HIM..."

...THE BLOOD OF THAT CLONED CHRIST IS LOST.

"YOU SEE? GOD STILL INSISTS ON CHALLENGING ME, EVEN NOW..."

"...SO *MANY LIFETIMES* AFTER I *FIRST* KILLED IN HIS NAME."

"LONG BEFORE *YOU*, BEFORE *ENGLAND*, BEFORE MY *REBIRTH* TO THE *NIGHT*...

"...I *LIVED* A LIFE IN THE SUN. A LIFE OF *GOD*.

"AND TO *DEFEND* HIM AGAINST THE *HERETICS*, I WAS WILLING TO *WASH* THE SOIL *HE* CREATED WITH *BLOOD*.

"SUCH WAS MY *FAITH*.

"*GOD* CALLED FOR A *SOLDIER* AND I *ANSWERED*."

"BUT IN TIME, THOUGH MY *FAITH* WAS STRONG...

"...MY *BODY* GREW WEAK. AND MY *ARMY* WEAKER.

"THE *HERETICS* HAD NEARLY *GROUND* US TO THE BONE.

"I OWED GOD A *VICTORY*...

"...AND OWED MY *MEN* FOR THEIR *VIGILANCE.*

"SO I ANSWERED THEIR SACRIFICE WITH A *GREATER* ONE.

"I *STUDIED* AT THE *SCHOLOMANCE,* SATAN'S DARK SCHOOL...WITH MY *SOUL* AS *TUITION.*

"AND YET, MY *FAITH* PERSEVERED. THOUGH I'D *LOST* MY HUMANITY...

"...I'D *GAINED* THE STRENGTH TO *WIPE OUT* GOD'S ENEMIES.

"I STOLE *FIRE* FROM THE DEVIL IN HIS *ADVERSARY'S* NAME...AND USED IT TO *WIN.*

"BUT THE CHEERS OF *VICTORY* SOON QUIETED.

"THE *MEN* WHO ONCE FOLLOWED ME DID NOT *TRUST* WHAT I'D BECOME.

"THOUGH I FOUGHT FOR THEM, THEY SAW ONLY A *MONSTER.*

"AND *GOD?*"

"DESPITE *ALL* I'D GIVEN UP IN HIS *DEFENSE*...

"...WHEN HIS *FOLLOWERS* CAME FOR ME, FOR MY HOME, MY *VERY FAMILY*...

"...HE DID *NOTHING* TO INTERVENE.

"PEOPLE THINK ME *UNHOLY*, BUT IT IS *QUITE* THE OPPOSITE.

"FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, I'VE *KNOWN* GOD WAS *REAL*...

"...AND THAT HE *HATED* ME."

DO YOU *UNDERSTAND?*

AN *OMNIPOTENT BEING* IS *COMPLICIT* IN EVERY *CRIME* HE ALLOWS.

GOD *LET* MY FAMILY *DIE*, BUT I WAS TOO *POWERFUL* TO DIE WITH THEM.

AND EVERYTHING SINCE, THE *DEATHS*, THE *BLOOD*, THE *PAIN*...HAS SERVED A *SIMPLE* PURPOSE.

TO KILL *HIS* FAMILY BACK. THOUGH THEY MAY *NUMBER* IN THE *BILLIONS.*

HUMANS ARE HIS *PROUDEST* CREATION...

...AND I *LINE* MY *WALLS* WITH THEIR *MEAT.*

THE *CHURCH FOOLS* THINK--

NUH-- NOHT...

SOMETHING *WRONG*, MY *BRIDE?*

YOU'LL HAVE TO *SPEAK UP*, SISTINE.

NOT...

NOT YOUR...

INCREDIBLE. *SISTINE CENTURIA* OF THE LINE OF *LILITH.*

A *TRUE WONDER* THAT DESPITE THIS *MARRIAGE* OF *CONVENIENCE...*

...YOU REMAIN EVER *DEFIANT.*

NO... NEVER...

I AM *NOT* YOUR *BRIDE*, YOU *POMPOUS*--

POP

THAT WILL BE *ENOUGH.*

YOUR LINE IS *POWERFUL* AND *RESPECTED.*

WITHOUT ONE OF *LILITH'S SPAWN* WEDDED TO MY NAME, THE *CLANS* WOULD'VE NEVER UNITED *BENEATH* ME.

YOUR *MATRIARCH* WAS ONCE A *MIGHTY RIVAL...*

...BUT SHE NEVER *OVERCAME* THE OLD *WEAKNESSES.*

JUST LIKE *HER*, YOU SAW *THROUGH* TO MY *TRUTH.*

HUMANS MURDERED MY FAMILY AND *VAMPIRES* ARE THE LIVING SYMBOL OF *WHY* THEY DIED.

IT HAS *ONLY* EVER BEEN ABOUT *ME* AND *HIM.*

AND *COWED* BY *ALIUM*, YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A *TOOL* IN THE VERY *REVENGE* YOU HOPED TO *STOP.*

I WILL TAKE *EVERYTHING* FROM GOD, AS HE DID FROM ME. ONCE OUR *WORK* IS COMPLETE...

...AND THE RED NOTE RINGS OUT!

HUMAN OR VAMPIRE, I WILL *FEAST* ON THEM ALL. THEN, RICH IN THE MIGHT OF BILLIONS...

...I WILL COME FOR GOD HIMSELF!

3

The Reliquary.

The Mission.

DID *ALL* I COULD, COUSIN.

BUT *YOU*...

...YOU'RE THE MIRACLE WORKER BETWEEN US.

JESUS...

...I'M SORRY.

SPLA-SQUISH

ABRAHAM. THAT *BEHEMOTH*...HE'S FUCKING *DEAD.*

FLASH-FRIED IN THE *SUN* LIKE THE *SHIT* HE WAS. BUT HE LEFT HIS *MARK.*

YOU BEEN *BIT* BEFORE. BUT NOT BY *DRACULA*'S LINE. NEVER *SEEN* A POISON SO *TOXIC*...

...EVEN TO *YOU.*

I'M *BARELY* A DOCTOR. LAST THING I PATCHED UP WAS A PREHISTORIC *BUICK.*

GOT YOU *STABLE.* GOT NEW *BLOOD* INTO YOU...*EVERYONE* GAVE.

BUT THAT *FILTH* STILL *TORE UP* YOUR INSIDES. I DRAGGED YOU TO THE *FINISH LINE*...

THE *LAST STRETCH* IS UP TO *YOU* NOW.

AND YOU *BEST* BE HEARING ME IN THERE.

SOMEWHERE...

OPEN THEM, JESUS.

OPEN YOUR EYES...

"...LIKE YOU ONCE *OPENED* MINE.

"THINK I'D EVER *FORGET?*

"WORD GOT AROUND THAT THE CHURCH *CLONED* YOU.

"*VAMPIRE CLANS* HEARD YOUR SPIT, YOUR *GENES,* ALL OF IT COULD *KILL* THEM.

"GOT *SPOOKED.* STARTED HUNTING *ANYONE* WITH YOUR BLOOD, NO MATTER HOW *DILUTED.*

"HOW MANY *THOUSANDS* OF DESCENDANTS YOU THINK YOU'VE *GOT?*

"VAMPIRES CAME FOR US *ALL.*

"I *CALL* YOU MY COUSIN, BUT REALLY...YOU'RE MY GREAT-HOW-MANY-TIMES-*GRANDFATHER.*

"OR HIS *COPY.* DOESN'T MATTER. EITHER WAY, YOU FOUND ME. ONE OF THE *LAST.*

"AND WE *FOUGHT* OUR WAY OUT, TOGETHER.

"UNTIL THEN, I THOUGHT *BLOOD* WAS WHAT MATTERED. I WAS WRONG.

"*FAMILY*'S WHERE YOU FIND IT...

"...ESPECIALLY ON THE BATTLEFIELD."

NO *NEWS* FROM THE *MISSION?*

WHAT THE *HELL'S HAPPENING* IN THERE?

JOHN'S DOING WHAT HE CAN. BUT HE'S A *MECHANIC.* AND FOR *ALL* JESUS HAS DONE...

...FOR ALL HE HELPED *BUILD*, AS *AMAZING* AS HE IS...

...HE'S NOT THE *ORIGINAL.* HE'S JUST A *MAN.*

NOT THE *ORIGINAL.* BUT NOT *JUST* A MAN.

NOT *JUST.* MOST *MEN...*

"A RISK. BUT A *CALCULATED* RISK. TURNS OUT...

"...WOULD'VE DONE *NOTHING.*

"WE *KNEW* IT WAS A RISK. *JOAN* AND *ME.*

"...WE *BOTH* CALCULATED WRONG.

"THE *REDEEMERS* JUST STARTED *FIRING.*"

FUCKING ADULTERER...

THINK WE WOULDN'T *FIND* YOU?

"THE *CHURCH* HAD EYES EVERYWHERE.

"OFFERED *INDULGENCES* TO PEOPLE WHO *RATTED* EACH OTHER OUT.

"JOAN AND I BOTH HAD BLACK MARKET *DIVORCES.*

"THE CHURCH HAD THEIR *MORAL THRESHOLDS,* SURE...

"...BUT THEY WERE *NEVER APPLIED* EQUALLY.

"*JOAN* GOT A WARNING. I HEARD IT...

"...AS THEY *LOADED* ME INTO THE *PADDY WAGON.*

"BUT I NEVER *MADE* IT THERE.

"PLENTY OF PEOPLE WATCHED, OR WALKED ON...

"...BUT NOT *HIM.*"

EVENING, GENTLEMEN...

READY TO SURRENDER?

The Reliquary.

HAAZ. LUVUYO.

WE WAITING ON THE *SON OF GOD?* OR WE *DRINKING?*

WAITING ON A *FRIEND,* CYRINE.

WAITING, DRINKING...AND *REMEMBERING.*

HE RISKS HIMSELF FOR US WHEN *NO ONE* ELSE WILL.

RISKS HIMSELF FOR *YOU,* MAYBE.

IN MY *CASE?*

TO THE *SAVIOR,* THEN.

AND TO THE NEXT ROUND.

AND *MANY* MORE...BUT *SAVIOR?* HE'S NOT *DIVINE.*

HE'S A *MAN* GROWN IN A *LAB.* AND HONESTLY, *THAT'S* WHY I'M HERE. *MYTHS* NEVER DID *SHIT* FOR ME.

"IT WAS *WITH* ME.

"FUCKING *INDULGENCE INCENTIVES*...

"SOME *ASS* CAUGHT SIGHT OF ME AND A *HOOKUP* IN A WINDOW.

"WHEN THE *METAMILITIA* CAME, SHE RAN...

"...BUT ME? I WAS *DONE* RUNNING."

YOU *CLEARLY* DON'T NEED HELP *SURVIVING*...

BUT WHAT IF THERE WAS PLACE YOU COULD DO SOME *LIVING?*

YOU WON *THIS* FIGHT. WHAT ABOUT THE *NEXT* ONE? AND THE *NEXT?*

AND AFTER THAT?

The Reliquary.

HEY, GIRL.

I KNOW THAT FACE. YOU'RE HYPING YOURSELF UP.

SO I KICKED A LITTLE ASS ON MY WAY OUT OF TOWN! JESUS STILL GOT ME HERE...

...TO A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T RUN FROM SHIT.

SIT, EVA...

...LET ME FILL YOUR CUP.

THAT...AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT.

RUDE.

ONE MORE FOR YOU, J.

BETTER BE HERE FOR THE NEXT TOAST.

THERE'S *NEVER* BEEN A *TEST* TO LIVE IN THE *RELIQUARY.*

HALF OF US *SAVED* FOLKS HERE HAD *VAMPIRES* AFTER US. THE OTHER HALF? THE *CHURCH.*

BUT WE COULD *ALWAYS* COUNT ON THEM HUNTING *EACH OTHER,* TOO. NOW...

...THEY'RE ON THE *SAME* SIDE? WITH *DRACULA* AT THE TOP? SHIT...

...JESUS STAKED *TWO PACKS* OF *SUCKFUCKS* TO PULL ME OUT OF A *SINKING SANDCRUISER.*

BUT *DRACULA'S* NO ORDINARY VAMPIRE. CHURCH RAN ME OUT FOR *ATHEISM.* BUT *FAITH...*

...THAT MIGHT BE THE ONLY THING *SAVES* OUR MAN IN THERE FROM WHAT'S *COMING.*

FAITH? OUR *FISTS'LL* BE A *LOT* MORE EFFECTIVE. EVEN MORE THAN OUR *BLOOD.*

THERE'S *NEVER* BEEN A *TEST* TO LIVE IN THE *RELIQUARY.*

I DON'T NEED *FAITH* TO BELIEVE IN A *FRIEND.* TO *LOVE* A FRIEND.

CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE'S SAYING THAT ABOUT *DRACULA.*

JESUS'LL PULL THROUGH.

BUT IF HE *DOESN'T,* THERE'LL BE NOWHERE THE *RED POPE* CAN HIDE...

"...FROM HIS FAMILY."

THE RED NOTE.

OUR GREAT MACHINE... WONDROUS, ISN'T IT?

THE LIBELOUS MIGHT CALL IT A DOOMSDAY DEVICE.

BUT WHAT IS DOOMSDAY, WHAT IS AN APOCALYPSE...

...BUT THE START OF SOMETHING NEW?

RIGHT, WOMAN?

SISTINE CENTURIA... ALWAYS SO DEFIANT.

I FIND YOUR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM DISTURBING.

WHERE IS YOUR *JOY?* FROM THIS ROOM, WE CRAFT OUR VERY *FUTURE!*

I AM *GLAD* SHE'S DEAD.

WELL...*MY* FUTURE, AS YOUR *SIRE* WOULD SAY. *LILITH* ALWAYS *DID* SEE THROUGH MY WORDS...

WE TOIL. BUT OUR DEVICE WILL STAND FOREVER INERT WITHOUT A *TOUCH* OF THE *HOLY*...

...THE *BLOOD* OF *CHRIST.* OR A REASONABLE RECREATION.

WHILE BELIEVER AND VAMPIRE ALIKE FEED *MINDLESSLY* ON RHETORIC...

...WE *WORK.*

WHEN THE *RED NOTE* FINALLY RINGS OUT...

...THE *WORLD* WILL RETURN TO THE *BLOOD* FROM WHICH IT ONCE ROSE.

GOD'S *CREATION* WILL BE OUR *ABATTOIR.*

NUH...

NUH-- NO...

SUCH IS THE REWARD FOR *HIS* FAITHFUL...

"...SHEEP OF ALL COATS."

BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?

STOP *PERFORMING.* THE *SUN'S* NOTHING BUT A BIT OF *PRIVACY.* ONE OF THE *LAST THINGS LEFT...*

...THAT WOULD EVEN *SLOW* HIM DOWN.

PRAISE BE TO THE *RED POPE.* GREAT RESURRECTOR OF THE *CHURCH.*

PRAISE AND *FUCK ALL.* I DON'T KNOW ABOUT *YOU,* BUT *I* VOTED *AGAINST* GETTING IN BED WITH THE *ENEMY.*

JUST THE *THOUGHT* OF HIM SHRINKS MY *COCK* UP INTO MY GUT...BUT *NUMBERS* ARE UP.

WE'RE *GAINING GROUND* FOR THE FIRST TIME IN--

PLEASE!

PLEASE, CARDINALS, I *BEG* YOUR *MERCY*...I'M *NEARING* THE MORAL THRESHOLD.

BUT I *CONFESS!* I'VE *STOLEN*...AND I WILL *HAVE* TO STEAL AGAIN.

I *MUST* FEED MY FAMILY. I SEARCH *DAILY* FOR WORK--

NOT HARD *ENOUGH*, IT SEEMS.

CONFESSION CLEANSES. *FORGIVENESS* EXISTS...

KICK

...BUT *NOT* FOR THOSE WHO'D USE IT AS A *CRUTCH.*

BE REAL. JUST BETWEEN US.

YOU NEVER STOLE?

I'M STILL THE *REAL DEAL.* I STILL *BELIEVE* IN THE *TEN.* A *SIN*'S A SIN.

WHICH IS WHY IT'S SUCH *BULLSHIT* THAT WE'VE CRAFTED OUR GREAT SOCIETY...

ONLY *HEARTS.* AND EVEN THEN...

...I NEVER *ADMITTED* IT.

"...ON THE *BACK* OF ONE OF OUR *GREATEST SINNERS.*

"THAT FUCKING *RESURRECTION MASS.*

"THAT'S WHEN IT ALL WENT *SOUTH.*

"WE WERE IN THE *RIGHT,* EVEN IF WE WERE *LOSING.*

"I HAD *FAITH* WE'D *OUTLAST* THE *UNFORTUNATES.* BUT NO...

"...WE DECIDED TO LIE WITH *BEASTS.* SIDE BY SIDE.

"NOW, SURE. WE'VE *GOT* THE POWER. AS LONG AS WE KEEP *GLORIFYING GOD...*

"...AND *KNEELING* FOR THE *DEVIL.*"

Castle Dracula.

HERE IT IS. THE *FREEDOM* AND *PRIVILEGE* WE CRAVED FOR SO *LONG.*

THE *BRAVE TOMORROW* PROMISED BY OUR *RESURRECTED SAVIOR.* LIVING IN THE DARK...

BENEATH THE VERY *THROATS* WE USED TO *SLIT.* FREE TO WALK IN THE *DAYLIGHT!*

AS LONG AS WE *WEAR* THEIR *UNIFORMS* AND *KISS* THEIR RIPE CATTLE ASSES--

STOP.

FATHER *DRACULA* HAS EARS EVERYWHERE--

DON'T TOUCH ME.

SPLORCH

FATHER *DRACULA.* FATHER *FALSE FUCKING PROMISE...*WE ALL *KNOW* THE *LILIN LORE.*

MOTHER *LILITH* BRANDED THE IMPALER AS A *TRAITOR* BEFORE HER DEATH.

MARK MY WORDS...

"...DRACULA *WILL FUCK* US THE *FIRST CHANCE* HE GETS."

FU--FUCK YOU...

MANI... AC...BETRAY... ER

WHAT AN *INTRIGUING* COMPLICATION, SISTINE.

THE CLOSER WE GET TO *COMPLETION*, THE MORE *REBELLIOUS* YOU GROW.

YOUR *BRAIN* IS HEALING FASTER ALL THE TIME. STILL...

YOUR TICS ARE A *DIVERSION*, NOTHING MORE.

TIME FOR YOUR *MEDICINE.*

YOU SEE... MY *TRUEST THIRST* HAS LONG BEEN THE *SETTLING* OF *OLD DEBTS.*

YOUR SIRE *LILITH* WAS A *GREAT RIVAL.* NOW, WITH *YOU* BENT TO MY WILL...

...HER LINE IS *COMPLICIT* IN THE VERY *TRIUMPH* SHE ONCE FOUGHT AGAINST.

YOURS WILL BE THE HAND THAT LETS THE *RED NOTE* SOUND.

GOD SENT HIS *SON* TO *SAVE* HIS PEOPLE. *I* WOULD *BLEED* HIM *DRY.*

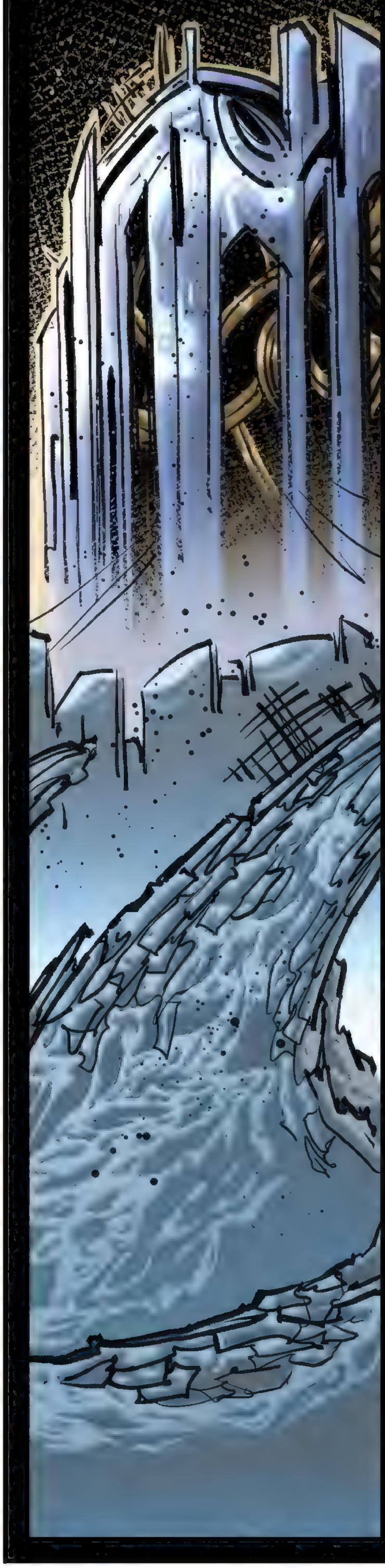
POP

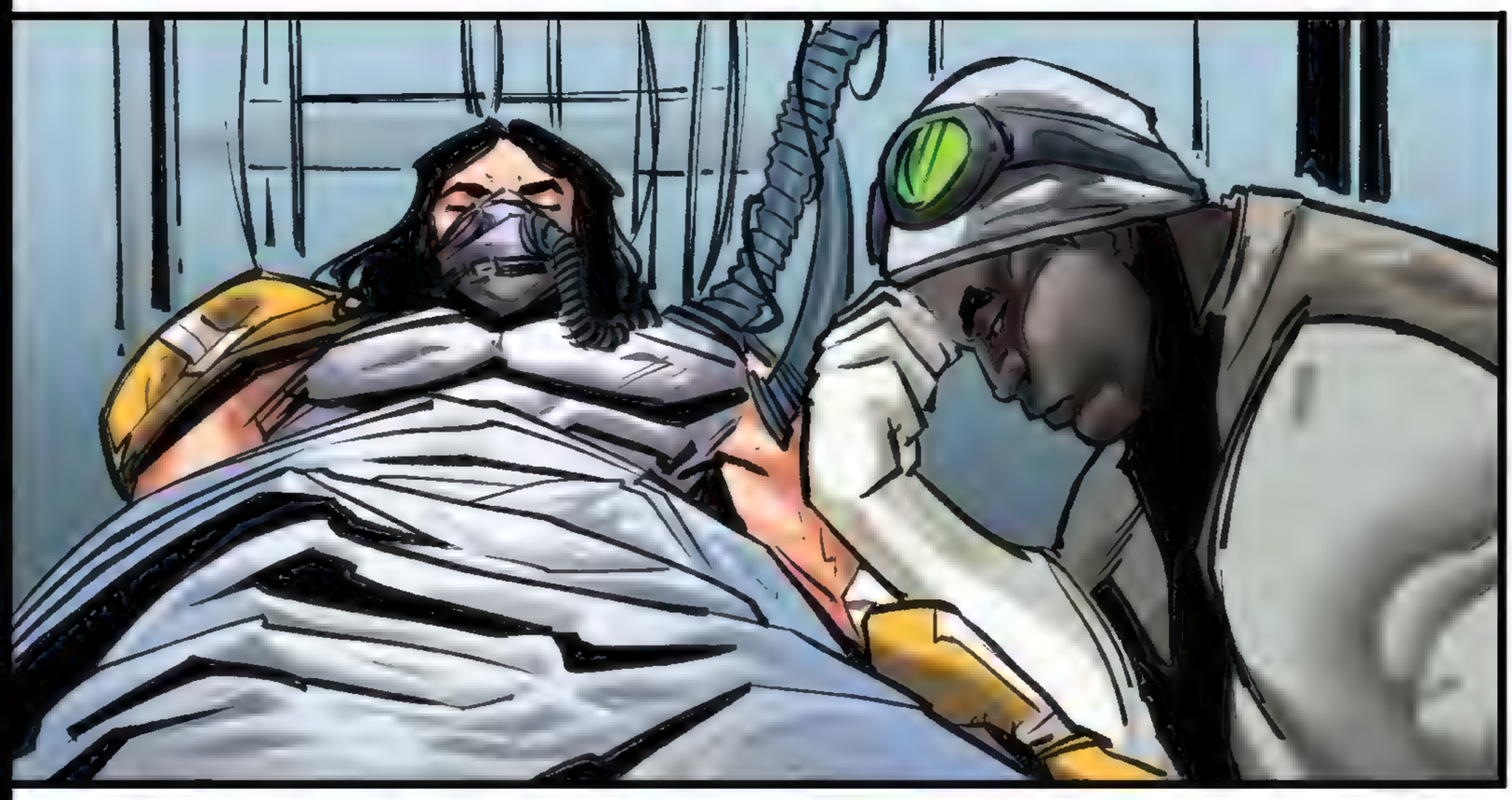
WHEN *ALL* HE'S MADE IS WASHED AWAY, *GOD* WILL LOOK TO HIS *THRONE...*

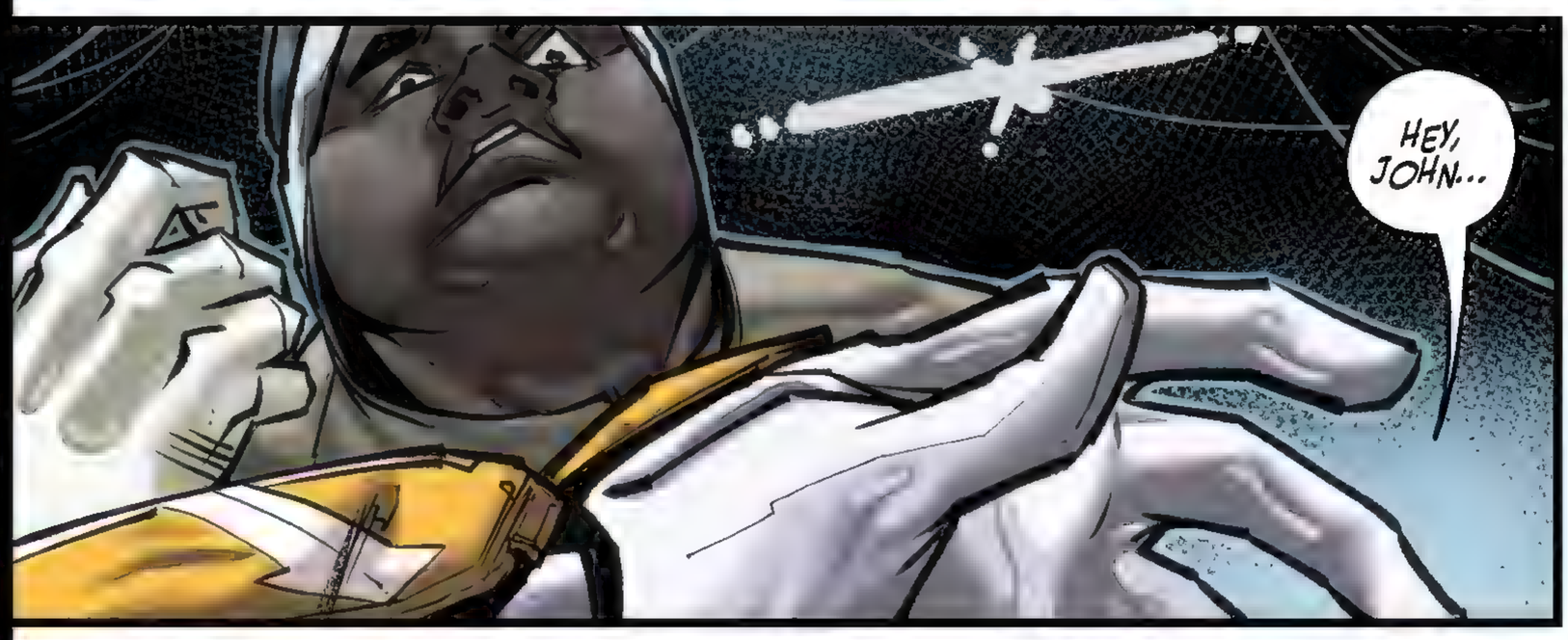
...AND *SEE ME* THERE. AND HE WILL KNOW, AT LAST...

"...THAT *THIS* GOD DOES NOT *FORGIVE.*"

The Reliquary.







...NICE WORK PATCHING UP THIS *OLD WRECK.*
HEY-- *HEY!* YOU'RE *UP!*
JUST TAKE IT *EASY,* MAN. GO SLOW. THE *BEHEMOTH*'S DOWN. THE *RELIQUARY*'S SAFE AND SECURED...
...YOU CAN *LEAN* ON ME.
I WON'T *ARGUE* OVER THE *SHOULDER.*
GOOD. YOU'RE STILL *HOURS* FROM FULL STRENGTH, AND--
I WON'T *ARGUE NOW* BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE *EVEN ANGRIER* AT ME.
HOW YOU FIGURE?

THERE'S NO TIME TO *HEAL*, JOHN. AND I MAY NOT REMEMBER IT ALL...

...BUT I'VE GOT *NO DOUBT* THAT THE *ORIGINAL* DID PLENTY MORE *SUFFERING* THAN *THIS.*

DRACULA... HE CHANGES THE GAME.

YOU *SAW* ABRAHAM. A *BELIEVER* WHO LET DRACULA TURN HIM INTO A *SUICIDE SOLDIER.*

THE *FANATICISM* DRACULA'S STOKED WILL LEAD *EVERYONE* TO THE *SLAUGHTER...* IF I *LET* IT.

I *NEED* TO STOP HIM. *NOW.* BEFORE ANYONE ELSE *HERE* GETS HURT.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I *DO WANT* TO ARGUE...BUT IT'S *POINTLESS.*

EVEN SO, YOU CAN *BARELY* STAND...

WHAT COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* DO AGAINST THE *RED POPE?*

WHAT THE *ORIGINAL* DID. *OFFERING MYSELF UP.*

BUT NO WAY IN *HELL* AM I GOING TO DO THAT...

"...WITHOUT SOME NEW TOYS."

YOU AT THE *FOREST LINE!* STATE YOUR *BUSINESS!*

ISN'T IT *OBVIOUS?* GO TELL YOUR *POPE...*

...I'M CALLING HIM OUT.

4

Castle Dracula.

New Vatican City.

KNOCK KNOCK

SISTINE.

WAIT HERE.

DON'T ASK ME. I'VE GOT NO FUCKING CLUE WHAT HE'S DOING IN THERE.

NOT *EVERY* MOVE THE *RED POPE* MAKES IS FOR *YOUR EYES.* NOW...

WHAT *IS* IT, BIRD?

IT'S *JESUS,* FATHER DRACULA...

...THAT *CLONE* IS AT OUR GATES.

HE *IS?*

HOW *GRACIOUS* OF HIM...

"...TO DELIVER HIS BLOOD TO OUR DOOR."

KREEEEEEEEEK

HERE WE GO.

LIVING BLASPHEMY!

IF YOU *INSIST* ON SHOWING YOUR *FACE* IN NEW VATICAN CITY...

...WE'RE *ALL TOO HAPPY* TO MAKE A *MEAL* OF IT!

SURE. BUT FIRST, HOW ABOUT A *CONFESSION?*

IT'S NOT MY *FACE* I CAME TO SHOW. IT'S *THIS.*

THE *LONGINUS-2.*

MY *COUSIN?* HELL OF A *BUILDER.* YOU'RE LOOKING AT *SOLAR PLASMA* MOLDED BY *CUSTOM GRAVITY.*

CUTS LIKE A *STAR.* NAMED FOR *CRUEL MERCY.* DANGER ON A *STICK.*

SEE... YOU CAN *CAGE* THE *SUN.*

BUT *EVERY* SO OFTEN...

YOU'VE GOT TO LET IT OUT!

WE--WE'D LIKE TO OFFER OUR *DEEPEST APOLOGIES,* SIR.

IT'S *REALLY* HIM...THE *TRAITOR* CHRIST! THE *CLONE.* THE *CARDINALS* SAID HE WAS WEAK, A COWARD...

BUT HE CUT THROUGH THE *METAMILITIA* LIKE *WHEAT.*

SHOOM

GLAD YOU'VE SEEN THE *LIGHT.*

FORGIVE ME! PLEASE! *DRACULA* ORDERED US TO THE GATE! TO DISOBEY IS TO *BLASPHEME!*

MY *MORAL THRESHOLD* WOULD BE *FUCKED!* IT'D BE *WEEKS* OF *CORPORAL PENITENCE!*

FORGIVENESS IS YOURS.

BUT DON'T EXPECT *ME* TO *PROTECT* YOU FROM YOUR *BOSS.*

YOU *CALLED,* IMPOSTER?

DRACULA.

JESUS.

YOU! GET *BACK* HERE! WE'VE *SEEN* YOUR NUMBERS--YOU'RE ALL *FORNICATORS!*

FUCK OFF, CUM COP!

DIDN'T YOU *HEAR?*

THEY'RE *FIGHTING* EACH OTHER!

KRAK

WHAM

POK

WHAT'S GOING ON? I CAN'T *SEE!*

HEAR THAT? THEY'RE *TEARING* EACH OTHER APART!

FUCK YEAH! DICE HIM! DRINK HIS *PUSSY-ASS* BLOOD!

GUT THAT *FALSE FUCKING GOD!*

GODDAMN *CON MAN*...LAST RITES THAT PIECE OF SHIT!

GET HIM, JESUS!

SLERK

CHOT

RIP

"*GET HIM, JESUS*"?!

POP

"WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?"

CHLOK UGHD SLERK TAGK GROT

ISN'T IT MISERABLE, BUCK? A KNOCKOFF CHRIST OR THIS VAMP MANIAC THEY PUT IN CHARGE?

PAPA ROSSO! PAPA ROSSO! PAPA ROSSO!

THE CHURCH'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT US FROM VAMPIRES. NOW SUDDENLY THEY'RE OUR NEIGHBORS?

AS IF WE DIDN'T GROW UP BEING EATEN BY THEM? LIKE NONE OF THAT HAPPENED?

LET THEM FIGHT. LET THEM BOTH DIE...I'M NOT PRAYING FOR DRACULA.

I HOPE THE CHURCH'S LISTENING, HOLLY. AND I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM TRY TO NAIL US FOR LYING.

'CAUSE WHAT WE'RE SAYING'S TRUE. THE WORLD'S GONE TO HELL. SO, IF DRACULA'S THUGS COME KNOCKING...

...WE'LL FIGHT 'EM OFF TOGETHER.

LOVE YOU, BUCK. LOVE YOU.

AND TO HELL...

"...WITH JESUS AND THE RED POPE."

PAPA ROSSO!

PAPA ROSSO!

PAPA ROSSO!

YOU SEE, CLONE?

TO DUEL ME IS TO DUEL ALL WHO BELIEVE IN OUR NEW, TRUE TESTAMENT!

PAPA ROSSO!

YOU'RE NOT FOR THESE PEOPLE. THEY MAY NOT KNOW THAT YET...

BUT THEY WILL.

PAPA ROSSO!

OUR EYES ARE OPEN, DECEIVER. YOU CAN'T FOOL US. YOU MAY HAVE COME BACK FIRST...

BUT WE'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUE SAVIOR COMES THROUGH FAITH... NOT SCIENCE.

MINE IS THE TRUE RESURRECTION. THEY SEE IT. THEY KNOW IT. THEY WELCOME ME WITH LOVE, AND YOU WITH--

DEATH!

GO HOME AND FUCK YOUR UNFORTUNATES, DESERT TRASH!

WHIFF

THUT

THUT

THUT

THUT

THUT

THUT

THUT

HUFF HUFF HUFF

LOOK AT YOU. WHERE I BRING *LOVE*, YOU BRING *HATE*. YOU *ATTACK* THE *WEAK* TO SAVE YOURSELF.

YOU *SURE* ABOUT THAT?

WAIT, I...I THOUGHT HE WAS *KILLING* ME. BUT HIS *TOUCH*, IT WAS--

MY *ARM* SHOULD BE *BROKEN*. BUT IT--IT'S *BETTER* THAN BEFORE...

WHAT *IS* THIS?

WE'RE HEALED.

EVERY STRIKE...

EACH TOUCH WAS A MIRACLE!

FUNNY THING, DRAC. MAYBE I END THE DAY A MARTYR...

BUT EITHER WAY, WE BOTH KNOW I'M SMARTER.

CARNIVAL TRICKS. SANCTIMONY. YOU'RE A FEW THOUSAND YEARS OUT OF DATE.

PEOPLE DON'T WANT A MARTYR ANYMORE. THEY DON'T WANT SAVIORS WHO LET THEMSELVES DIE...

"...THEY WANT *SAVIORS* WHO *DON'T* GET KILLED."

HOOAAGHCH

PTOO

CHOOM KRAK CHOOM

KRAK CHOOM KRAK

HEY! *WHERE* DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--

SHUT THE FUCK UP! YOU THINK HE WANTS US ORDERING HIS *WOMAN* AROUND?

CHOOM KRAK CHOOM

"I THINK *DRACULA'S* PROBABLY GOT A *GOOD REASON* TO KEEP HIS *BRIDE* LOCKED AWAY IN THERE...

"...BUT *FUCK IT.* I WON'T TELL IF *YOU* WON'T."

KRAKKA KOOM

KA-SHK

THE LIGHT! FUCK!

STOP WHINING AND GET BEHIND ME, MAN!

JUST DON'T MAKE A MESS IF YOU BURN OUT, OKAY?

WELL STRUCK!

SLASH

SADLY, THE SUN IS LITTLE MORE THAN AN INCONVENIENCE...

"...YOU'LL HAVE TO STRIKE *STRONGER* TO *KILL ME.*"

CAN YOU *SEE* ANYTHING, JOHN? IS *HE* STILL ALIVE?

BARELY. MAYBE *LESS.* CAN'T *SEE* MUCH...

BUT THE *RUMBLE RESPONSE* ON THE BINOCULARS IS GIVING ME *RICHTER READINGS.*

THE *TWO* OF THEM ARE *REALLY* GOING AT IT IN THERE...

...WHICH MEANS *JESUS* ISN'T DONE *YET.*

WE'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM. THERE'S *GOT* TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

...MAYBE.

EVERYONE HEAD *DOWN* TO THE *STREET...*

"...AND WE'LL DO *EVERYTHING* WE CAN."

YOU...

YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONE WHO'S GOTTEN *TOUGHER.*

KRAKACHOOM

SIZZZLE

YOUR *GENETIC TEMPLATE* SPENT *FORTY DAYS* OUT THERE *SUCKING SAND.* SUCH A *PERFORMANCE.*

BUT *YOU* NEVER SHOULD'VE *LEFT* THE DESERT AT ALL.

FWOOSH

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE DIRT, KING?

"I'D SAY YOU'RE *OVERDUE* FOR A VISIT."

The Reliquary.

JOHN! *JOHN!?* WHERE'RE WE *GOING?*

WHAT'S THE *PLAN?*

YOU'VE *ALWAYS* GOT ONE...

HOW COULD YOU *JUST LET* JESUS FACE THAT *MONSTER* BY *HIMSELF?*

"LET"?

GLUG

RRIP

NO ONE *LETS* MY COUSIN DO *ANYTHING.* HE JUST *DOES* IT. JESUS IS *OUT* THERE.

HE'S *FIGHTING* TO PROTECT THIS WAY OF LIFE. AND EVEN IF IT'S JUST *ONE NIGHT* MORE...

...I'LL BE *DAMNED* IF WE *WASTE* WHAT HE *GIVES* US.

HUG OR *FUCK* THE ONES YOU LOVE.

EAT, LAUGH, DRINK, HOPE...

"...AND HAVE *FAITH* IN THE MAN."

HOW *LONG* DO YOU THINK YOU CAN *FOOL* THESE PEOPLE, IMPALER?

SLERIT

PUT ON A *SHOW.* TELL THEM WHAT THEY *WANT* TO HEAR...

...VAMPIRES, HUMANS...

...HOW LONG CAN YOU *POISON* THEM...

...BEFORE THEY *FIND* THE SOURCE OF THE *ROT?*

SHOK

HUARGHK!

LONGER THAN *YOU* HAVE.

NOW... WHAT'S THE *LINE?*

TWIZTKT

"TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU...

"...AND DRINK OF IT"?

DO IT, PAPA ROSSO! **DO IT!**

DRAIN THAT **HERETIC** DRY!

"THIS IS MY BLOOD"?

YOU SEE, *FAKE* SON?

THEY *CHEER* FOR YOUR DEATH.

AGAIN.

DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL *NOSTALGIC?*

I DON'T GET HUNG UP ON THE *PAST.*

UAGHD

HURK

HUROK

HURGGHK

SLOPPP

YOU FILTHY... LITTLE...

...shit.

HUUUAAA

NOW...

NOW THEY KNOW...

...NOW THEY'VE SEEN YOU SCARED.

THUD

...IT'S *BLOOD.*

FATHER *DRACULA'S* BLOOD, BUT IT'S...

IT'S NOT *RIGHT* SOMEHOW, IT...

...IT'S WINE.

THIS FRAUD...

HE POISONED THE RED POPE.

PLEASE...I KNOW WHAT DRACULA'S *TOLD* YOU...

BUT I'M *NOT* THE *ENEMY*...

YOU ATTACKED ME IN *RAGE*...

...AND I REPLIED WITH *HEALING*.

DRACULA'S THE ONE WHO'S *ATTACKED* YOU. FIRST YOUR *HEARTS*, AND THROUGH *THEM*, YOUR *MINDS*.

HE IS MY ENEMY, *NOT* YOU. YOU'VE *GOT* TO SEE THAT...

I...I MEAN *NONE* OF YOU *HARM*.

THAT'S A *REAL NICE SPEECH*, POSER.

AND *REAL CONSIDERATE* OF YOU TO SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO *HURT* US...

...TOO BAD WE CAN'T SAY THE SAME.

5

Castle Dracula.

SISTINE, MY BRIDE...WE--WE ARE SO...

...SO CLOSE TO THE END...PRAY TELL ME...

...WHAT OF THE *BLOOD?*

WIRRRRRRR

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST...

...IS--IS NOW...

...*PURE.*

DAMN CLONE...THE *PAIN* HE FORCED UPON ME...TURNING MY *BLOOD*...

...MY *HOLY LIQUID* TO WINE, BUT *DRACULA*... DRACULA *SURVIVES.*

SISTINE?

YE-- YES...

ACTIVATE THE MACHINE.

PORT

HOW *SAD.* THE *FAKE SAVIOR* DROVE MY *OWN BLOOD* AGAINST ME.

BUT *NEGLECTED* WHAT HE LEFT OF HIS *OWN* IN MY *STOMACH.*

BUT JESUS...

HE-- HE...

...*LIVES?*

SOUR MY *MOOD* AND I'LL *DOUBLE* YOUR *GARLIC,* WIFE.

THE *SOUNDING* OF THE *RED NOTE* IS NEAR. AND *JESUS?*

HE SO *LOVES* BEING A MAN OF THE *PEOPLE...*

VRRR

"...IT ONLY FELT *RIGHT* TO *LEAVE* *HIM TO THEM.*"

PLEASE, I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY...

...NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TOLD...

THE FIRST THING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!

JUST LIKE THE RED POPE WARNED!

ONLY ONE OF US IS LYING TO YOU!

AGHK!

WHICH OF US DO YOU REALLY FEAR?

BASTARD!

THINK YOU CAN TRICK US?

THIS'S A CITY OF DECENT PEOPLE!

HOW COULD WE NOT FEAR GOD'S MESSENGER? NOT DREAD THE RED POPE?

HOW COULD WE *NOT* SHOW *DRACULA* THAT *RESPECT?*

PLEASE...My FRIENDS...

The Reliquary.

WHAT *DO* WE DO, JOHN? WE CAN'T JUST *STAND* HERE!

DID HE SAY WHEN HE'D BE *BACK?* SHOULDN'T HE BE *BACK* BY NOW?

IT'S NOT JUST *DRACULA!* NOT JUST HIS *REDEEMER METAMILITIA!*

ONE MAN, EVEN *HIM,* AGAINST ALL OF *NEW VATICAN CITY?*

HE'S YOUR *COUSIN!* AND *THIS* IS WHAT YOU DO?

THE *SUN'S DOWN,* JOHN.

WHATEVER'S ALREADY HAPPENED...

...WHAT'S *NEXT* CAN ONLY BE *WORSE.*

JESUS...

...JESUS *DID* THIS TO KEEP US *SAFE.*

HE DIDN'T *WANT* US FIGHTING FOR HIM.

RIGHT. AND THERE'S NOT A *PERSON* HERE HE HASN'T RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE *BEFORE.*

WHO THE HELL IS *HE* TO *STOP US* FROM DOING THE SAME?

...YOU HEARD 'EM, COUSIN.

EVERYONE DOWN TO THE *MISSION.* YOU'VE *ALL* GOT YOUR *PICK* OF *MY WORKSHOP.*

GET *ARMED.* GET *HYPED.* I WANT *ELEVEN* WITH ME.

THE *REST* OF YOU?

SECURE OUR HOME...

"...AND WAKE THE SKY SAVIOR DRONES."

THAT'S ENOUGH...FOR NOW.

IT'S A NEW ERA. JUST LIKE FATHER DRACULA SAYS.

AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY CITIZENS OF NEW VATICAN.

FUCKING SHOULD BE.

BUT WE'RE NOT! SO SHUT THE FUCK UP AND STEP ASIDE.

HE'S RIGHT. YOU'VE ALL DONE A REAL GOOD JOB HERE.

BUT WHEN DEALING DEATH, SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOT TO STAY YOUR HAND...

...AND *SHARE* A BIT WITH YOUR *FELLOW MAN.*

MEN WALK IN THE *SUN,* SUCKER TRASH.

HEAR *THAT,* SAVIOR? *THIS* IS WHAT WE PUT UP WITH. *YOU'RE* NO DIFFERENT.

YOU CUT US DOWN WITHOUT A THOUGHT. *WHY?* BECAUSE *DADDY* TOLD YOU TO?

YOU LEARNED *HATE* JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE...FROM YOUR *PARENTS.*

BUT HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE *WE'RE* ABOVE SUCH THINGS, RIGHT? SURE AS *HELL* HATE YOU.

WE MAY NOT BE *DRACULA'S* LINE, BUT EVEN IF WE CAN'T DRINK YOUR *BLOOD...*

...THERE'RE *PLENTY* OF WAYS TO *RELIEVE* YOU OF IT.

RIP

THUD

WHAT THE-- IN OUR CITY? OUR STREETS?

IN OUR HOME?!

WHO WOULD DARE?!

WE'RE REDEEMERS! ORDAINED BY THE RED POPE!

AND IF YOU FUCKERS THINK YOU CAN JUST SHOOT US, YOU'RE --

CHOT

CHOT

CHOT

CHOT

CHOT

CHOT

CHOT

THINK WE CAN? BROTHER...

...WE KNOW WE CAN.

EYES UP, PEOPLE. GIVE ME A *PERIMETER* AROUND JESUS.

DON'T EXPECT ANY *FRIENDLIES.*

FRIENDLIES? YOU'RE *INVADERS!* SWOOPING DOWN HERE FROM YOUR *SKY DRONES...*

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU WON'T GET THE *SAME WELCOME* AS YOUR *BOY?*

ONE -- WE'RE *NOT NEARLY* AS *WORRIED* ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

AND *TWO* -- SILVER AND STAKES WORK *JUST AS WELL* ON HUMANS.

TIME FOR A FIELD TEST, COUSIN! *EMERGENCY INFUSER.* LOADED WITH YOUR OWN *PURIFIED BLOOD.*

THANK *DRACULA* FOR THE CONCEPT. IN FACT, IF THIS WORKS...

SHICK

...YOU CAN *THANK* HIM IN PERSON.

GAH *WHOWHAT?!*

IT'S *OKAY*, JESUS...YOU'RE IN *NEW VATICAN CITY.*

YOU'RE *ALIVE*... YOUR *PEOPLE* GOT TIRED OF *WAITING* ON YOU. CAN'T SAY I FELT *DIFFERENT.*

THOUGHT WE'D COME DO SOME *SAVING* OF OUR OWN. YOU WANT TO GET *MAD?* GO AHEAD.

JOHN, I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO *SAY...*

...YOU *HONOR* ME.

ALL OF YOU *HONOR* ME.

WHAT A *LOAD!* YOU'D NEVER HEAR FATHER DRACULA *BLUBBERING* LIKE THIS --

KEEP *TALKING.* YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HEARING *SHIT* ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

OF COURSE.

BROTHERS, SISTERS, SIBLINGS. *DRACULA* TUCKED HIS TAIL. *HID* BEHIND HIS *CASTLE WALLS.*

BUT I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH THAT...

HONOR YOU. *REMIND* YOU WE'RE IN *ENEMY TERRITORY...*

...YOUR *APOSTLES* DO IT ALL.

"...ARE YOU?"

HOW COULD THEY *FIGHT* FOR THIS *PIECE OF SHIT?*

DRACULA'S WOVEN HIMSELF INTO THEIR *WHOLE LIVES.* THEY'RE *TRAPPED.*

FEELS LIKE WHEN WE FIRST *MET,* JOHN.

BETTER. *THIS* TIME...

...*WE'RE* ON OFFENSE.

BACHOOM

FUCK! LOOK! THE *CASTLE WALLS...*IS *THAT* -- IT *CAN'T* BE...

IT *CAN* BE. IT *FUCKING* IS. AFTER ALL...

...WE'RE TALKING ABOUT *DRACULA* HERE.

HE *LINED* HIS *CASTLE* WALLS...

...WITH *MEAT.*

NOT JUST *ANY* MEAT, TINKERER...

HUMAN MEAT.

COME *INSIDE* FOR A *CLOSER LOOK.*

CHECK OUR *CROSSES,* YOU DIRTY FUCKING *UNFORTUNATES.*

THIS WAY LIES *REDEMPTION...* HONEST.

DRACULA'S *IN THERE.* HE'S WOUNDED. HE'S SCARED. DESPERATE...

...WHERE *ELSE* WOULD HE *GO?*

SOUNDS LIKE *THAT'S* WHERE YOU NEED TO BE, *BOSS.*

CLI-KLAK

WE'LL *GET* YOU THERE.

YOU *TRAINED* 'EM WELL.

SO DID *YOU.*

CAN WE KILL THE CIRCLE-JERK... *AND GET ON WITH THE VIOLENCE?*

HAZSSSSSS

WE'RE ON YOUR SCHEDULE.

CHUK

SLASH

BAM

NEARLY THERE...CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

KRIK

POK POK POK

SLERK

THE HUMMING. A PULSING IN THE WALLS.

RHYTHMIC. GETTING LOUDER. LIKE...

...LIKE A --

CHOK

-- HEARTBEAT?

INDEED, CLONE. BUT NOT MY HEART.

IT IS THE WORLD'S HEART...CLUTCHED TIGHT IN MY HAND.

AND THE TIME TO SQUEEZE IS FAST APPROACHING.

PUNT

EVERYONE HOLD THE --

LAINGHK!

THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE...AND YOU'RE QUITE THE BLEEDER.

LET YOUR FAKE APOSTLES FIGHT. SOON ENOUGH...

...THEY'LL BE MEANING-LESS.

I CALLED THIS MACHINE THE *HEART* OF THE *WORLD.* AND THAT'S *TRUE,* IN A *SENSE.*

AFTER ALL, IT *PUMPS* WITH BLOOD. *YOUR BLOOD.*

GRRRRRRR

CHOK

BITING? WHOSE SON *ARE* YOU? AS I WAS *THREATENING...* WITH YOUR *BLOOD* COMES *TRANSUBSTANTIATION.*

THE *SAVIOR'S* TRUE POWER, CONVEYED WORLDWIDE BY THE *RED NOTE.* ONCE *PLAYED...*

...ALL WHO'VE DRANK OF MY CUP, EATEN AT MY TABLE, WILL *RETURN* TO THE *BLOOD* WHENCE THEY CAME.

MANIAC!

I'LL *KILL* YOU FIRST! YOU'LL NEVER *GET* THEM TO THE TABLE!

WAK

AND IF I *ALREADY HAVE?*

HUMAN... VAMPIRE...THEY'RE *UNITED* UNDER ME.

THE RED NOTE'S BEACON HAS LONG BEEN INSIDE EVERY ONE OF THEM.

THEY'VE *ALL* EATEN FROM MY TABLE. THEY DO IT EVERY DAY...

...IN THE *RATIONS* WE GIVE AS *ALMS.*

EVEN YOUR CHARITY IS POISON...

ALL WILL RETURN TO THE *PRIMORDIAL MESS* FROM WHICH *HE* MOLDED THEM...

...THEN, I WILL DRINK OF IT. I WILL *BATHE* IN THE BLOOD OF HUMANITY.

LIKE...

...HELL.

MORE LIKE *HEAVEN.* THIS HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN ABOUT *ME AND HIM.*

AND DRUNK ON THE LIFE OF HIS GREATEST CREATION, FINALLY...

...I WILL HAVE MY *WORD* WITH *GOD.*

GOOD LUCK PLAYING THAT NOTE WITHOUT *ARMS,* PAPA ROSSO.

HE... HE MUST...

YOU *WANT* THIS? HE'S COMING FOR HIS *OWN KIND!* YOU THINK HE'LL *SPARE* YOU?

NO CHOICE... NO HOPE... NO CHANCE...

...FOR YOU.

HEAR *THAT,* IMPOSTER?

IF YOU WANT TO *SAVE THE WORLD...*

...YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH *MY* ***BRIDE.***

The Reliquary.

HOW'S IT *LOOK* OUT THERE? STILL *ALL CLEAR?*

FOR NOW. BUT YOU *KNOW* JOHN'S ORDERS.

IF HE *LOSES.* IF *JESUS* DOESN'T COME HOME...

"...IT'S DOWN TO *US.*

"AND WE'VE *ALL* GOT TO BE *READY.*

"READY TO *GO.*

"*READY TO FIGHT.*

"AND IF THE TIME COMES...

"...READY TO *DIE* FOR THE *CAUSE.*"

Castle Dracula.
New Vatican City.

APOSTLES! HOLD THE LINE!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BAM BAM BAM

BAM BRAKKA BAM

DRACULA'S *METAMILITIA* DOESN'T END, JOHN. THE *REDEEMERS* JUST KEEP *COMING.*

WHAT *EXACTLY* ARE WE HOLDING THE LINE *FOR?*

FOR MY *COUSIN* TO DO HIS *WORK.* THESE SHEEP'LL *LIE DOWN* IF THE *RED POPE* FALLS.

"AND IF HE *DOESN'T?*

"IF *JESUS* CAN'T KILL *DRACULA* IN TIME?"

"THEN, WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, IT REALLY *WILL* BE *BIBLICAL.*"

ZZZAT

SISTINE CENTURIA...MEET THE MAGDALENE.

"EVERYONE WHO'S EATEN *CHURCH RATIONS...*"

THINK, SISTINE! YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO *PROTECT* DRACULA!

IT'S *HIS* REGIME! *HIS* DOOMSDAY DEVICE. AND WHAT'S *COMING...*

IZZRIT

"...ANYONE WHO'S EVER *TOUCHED* THE STUFF..."

...IS HIS ASSKICKI

!ANGHK!

SLASH!

"...WILL GO *BACK* TO THE *BLOOD* THEY CAME FROM."

THIS DIDN'T NEED TO HAPPEN, SISTINE.

BUT IF YOU INSIST ON FIGHTING DRACULA'S BATTLE?

YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN PAIN TO WIN IT!

DREADFUL.

SO FALLS *SISTINE CENTURIA.* BLOOD OF LILITH. LAST OF A ONCE-GREAT LINE.

AND *OVERWHELMING FAILURE* AS BOTH TOOL AND *ENTERTAINMENT.*

BE WITH YOU IN A *SECOND,* PAPA ROSSO.

AND IF THIS GOES *RIGHT...*

CHOK

...I WON'T BE ALONE.

I...CAN'T, I...CAN'T...

PAHP

YOU *CAN*, SISTINE.

NO, I...I'M...BEEN SO LONG. SO...

...MUCH TIME...WITH HIS POISON ON MY MIND...BUT I'M...

I'M *HEALED?!*

IT'S ONLY *FAIR* I RETURN THE *FAVOR.*

WAIT, SISTINE! FIGHT *WITH* ME! YOU-- YOU *CAN'T* CHALLENGE HIM ALONE!

LIKE *HELL* I CAN'T.

TAKE IT *SLOW.* HOWEVER DRACULA WAS *CONTROLLING* YOU...IT'S *OVER.*

CONTROLLING? HE KEPT ME DOCILE WITH *BRAIN DAMAGE.*

EAGER TO JOIN YOUR SIRE IN THE *DUST,* WOMAN?

YOU DON'T MOCK HER, FILTH! NOT YOU!

NO...

SISTINE!

AGHK!

YOU CAN *JUDGE* OUR LINE--BUT IT'S A *DAUGHTER OF LILITH* RUINING YOUR *MOMENT!*

THE *RED NOTE* WILL NEVER SOUND! I'LL *KILL* YOU FIRST, YOU--

THUD

CHOKE

IT *SEEMS* YOU *WON'T.*

LILITH'S *FAMILY TREE* DIES HERE, WITH *ME* DRUNK ON ITS SAP...

...AND *YOU* IN THE *DIRT.* DEAD AND DRY.

SO, SAVIOR...*WHERE* WERE WE?

YOU AND *ME.*

THE WAY IT SHOULD BE!

THWACK

TWIST

NYRAHK!

YOUR *TRUE SIN* IS THINKING YOURSELF MY *EQUAL.*

FIGHT AS *HARD* AS YOU LIKE, BUT ONLY *ONE* OF US IS AN *ORIGINAL.*

CHOK

UAGHD!

ORIGINAL OR NOT...

...YOU *DON'T KNOW* WHAT I KNOW.

YOU USED TO LEAD FROM THE FRONT.

THOK

WAKK

BUT THAT WAS A *LONG TIME* AGO.

KRRAK

I NEVER STOPPED.

YOU *USE* PEOPLE UP AND *THROW* THEM AWAY. I CELEBRATE THEM.

YOU. WITH YOUR *LEGIONS.* WITH TWO *KINGDOMS WAITING* ON YOU.

YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU COULD *POSSIBLY WIN* THIS FIGHT?

KRAVEN

YOU HAVEN'T *SUFFERED* FOR SOMETHING IN *LIFETIMES.* YOU *HURT* PEOPLE...

...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW *PAIN.* NOT LIKE *ME.* CLONE OR NOT!

SISTINE WAS *RIGHT.* THE *RED NOTE* WILL NEVER BE PLAYED.

YOU *BUILT* YOUR DOOMSDAY DEVICE...

HEH HEH HEH

"...BUT YOU'LL *NEVER* GET TO USE IT."

YOU *SEEING* THIS, JOHN? THE *WALL!* IT'S *BLEEDING!* THERE--THERE *REALLY IS* SKIN INSIDE...

"...AND IT'S *NOT HAPPY.*"

WHAT'RE YOU *LAUGHING* ABOUT?

HEH HA HEH HA HEH

CHOK

AGHK!

SKREEEEEE

FORM UP! BACK TO BACK! EVEN THE *WALLS* AND *AIR* ARE AFTER US!

SKREEEEE

SKKRREEEEET

SKREEEET

HA HA HA HA HA HA

SKREET SKREET SKREET

HA HA HA H

MU...

WIHLL...

BEEE...

ACTI--
VEET

NO!
THE BUTTON--
DON'T!

...DUN.

KRAKA--THOOM

BASTARD!

YOU THINK--

YOU CAN HURT--

THIS WORLD--

WITHOUT--

A PRICE?

THE BILL'S PAST DUE.

KRA-KA-...KOOM

BOOM

THAT'S SUFFERING, YOU *PIECE* OF *SHIT.*

GUHHHHH...

IS--IS THAT-- IT *CAN'T* BE THE *RED POPE.*

SMELLS LIKE DRACULA...SOME-- SOMEWHERE...

...IN THAT SACK OF SKIN...

SHOULD... WE HELP HIM? DON'T KNOW... HOW WE COULD, I...

CAN BARELY...STAND... MYSELF...

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD... NOT--NOT THAT I FEEL MUCH... MUCH BETT--

--ERGH!

I--I'M *SICK,* I--OH GOD--I'M-- I'M GONNA--

SLOGTCH

SPLASH

SPLASH

SLURSSSSSSH

YIIIISZZZ*

...ALL OF THEM.

BY ALL THAT'S RIGHT AND KIND...

"...HE'S TAKING EVERYONE."

THEY'RE POPPING LIKE BALLOONS, JOHN! BUT WE-- SOMEHOW...

POP

POP

POP

"...WE'RE OKAY?!"

AND NOW...

...ONE FINAL TIME.

IT--IT CAN'T BE...THIS WAS OVER.

IT WAS OVER.

I RISE...

KAKOOM

...AND YOU FALL!

North Sanguinopolis.

BLOKP

POP

PLATCH

HE--HE'S NO VAMPIRE...NOT ANYMORE...

Vladimirgrad.

POP

PLATCH

BLOKP

IS ANYONE ON? ANYONE ALIVE? THIS IS THE RELIQUARY.

I'M ON. JUST ME AND YUDA LEFT HERE...BARELY.

THEN HANG TIGHT, JOHN...

Third Eaden.

BLOKP

"...WE'VE SCRAMBLED THE SKY SAVIORS."

LEAVE ME...I CAN STILL FIGHT...

NO! THERE'S NO WINNING THIS, JESUS.

I'LL KILL HIM! AGAIN!

NOT HERE. NOT TODAY, AT LEAST. DRONES ARE EN ROUTE...

...WE'RE LEAVING.

I CAN'T, JOHN. ALL THESE PEOPLE...

I KNOW, COUSIN. I KNOW. DRACULA WON...

FWT

"...FOR *NOW.*

"LEAVE HIM TO HIS *BLOOD.* LET HIM *HAVE* THIS *DAY.*

"*YOUR PEOPLE* ARE ALIVE.

"AND THEY'RE *WAITING* FOR YOU...

"...TO HELP THEM FIND *TOMORROW.*

"SEE, THAT'S WHY WE MAKE A *GOOD TEAM.*

"THE *HOPE* AND THE *MEANS.*

"YOU NEVER *PLANNED* ON LOSING. WOULDN'T BE *YOU* IF YOU DID.

"THAT'S WHAT *I* PLAN FOR. AND THIS *IS* A *LOSS.*

"EVERYONE WHO ATE *CHURCH RATIONS* IS MELTING TO *SOUP...*

"...IT'S WEAPONIZED *TRANSUBSTANTIATION.*

"IT'S *ALL* TURNING TO *BLOOD.* AND THE *RED POPE'S* GOING TO DRINK."

JOHN, THIS *SHIP...*

WHAT DO YOU THINK I WAS *DOING* DOWN HERE? I *DID* CALL IT THE *MISSION.*

YOU LOST YOUR *WORLD,* JESUS...BUT NOT YOUR *FAMILY.*

IT SEEMS *NOT.* BECAUSE OF *YOU.* YOU...

...YOU *HUMBLE* ME.

AND *YOU'RE RIGHT.*

"TO FIND *TOMORROW* ON *ANY OTHER WORLD*...

"...WE'VE GOT TO *OUTLIVE* THIS ONE.

"GOT TO *SET OUT* FOR OUR TIME IN A *NEW KIND OF DESERT*...

"...AND LEAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF *EARTH* TO ITS *MAD KING.*"

HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA

FINALLY!

HMM.

ARE YOU *WATCHING* UP THERE? YOU *SEE* HOW I *MOCK* YOUR WAYS?

HOW I *TAKE THEM* AS MY OWN?

YOU MAY *REIGN ABOVE,* FOR NOW...BUT *I'LL* BE *COMING.* ALREADY...

...I'VE *TARNISHED* YOUR *JEWEL.* MY VEINS *SWELL* WITH THE *BLOOD* OF YOUR *FAVORITE CREATIONS.*

I AM THE *GOD OF EARTH* NOW, DO YOU *HEAR* ME?!

SPLHOOOOSH

I AM THE GOD BELOW!

Outer Orbit.

WHAT *IS* IT, YUDA?

I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU, JOHN...

BUT HE'S *STIRRING.*

ALREADY?

"MUST BE *GOOD GENES.*"

LOOK.

HE'S *WAKING.*

SISTINE? I *HARDLY* REMEMBER.

WHERE *AM I?*

SAFE. ON OUR *COLONY SHIP.*

THE *RELIQUARY* IS LOST, AND *EARTH* WITH IT...

"...BUT YOUR PEOPLE *AREN'T.*"

WHAT EVERYONE'S *DONE* HERE, JOHN...THIS IS *INCREDIBLE.*

HELL *YES,* IT IS. AND THERE'S ONLY *ONE ASS* FIT FOR THE *CAPTAIN'S* CHAIR.

ME? BUT I *FAILED* YOU. I *FAILED* YOU ALL.

ONLY WAY YOU'D *FAIL US* IS IF YOU *STOP FIGHTING,* JESUS.

WE'RE *NOT* DONE. ARE *YOU?*

NOT WHILE I'M *BREATHING.*

THAT'S WHAT I *THOUGHT*, COUSIN.

SO *SIT DOWN, SHUT UP...*

...AND TAKE THE WHEEL.

FUCK REVELATION... TRY EXPLORATION.

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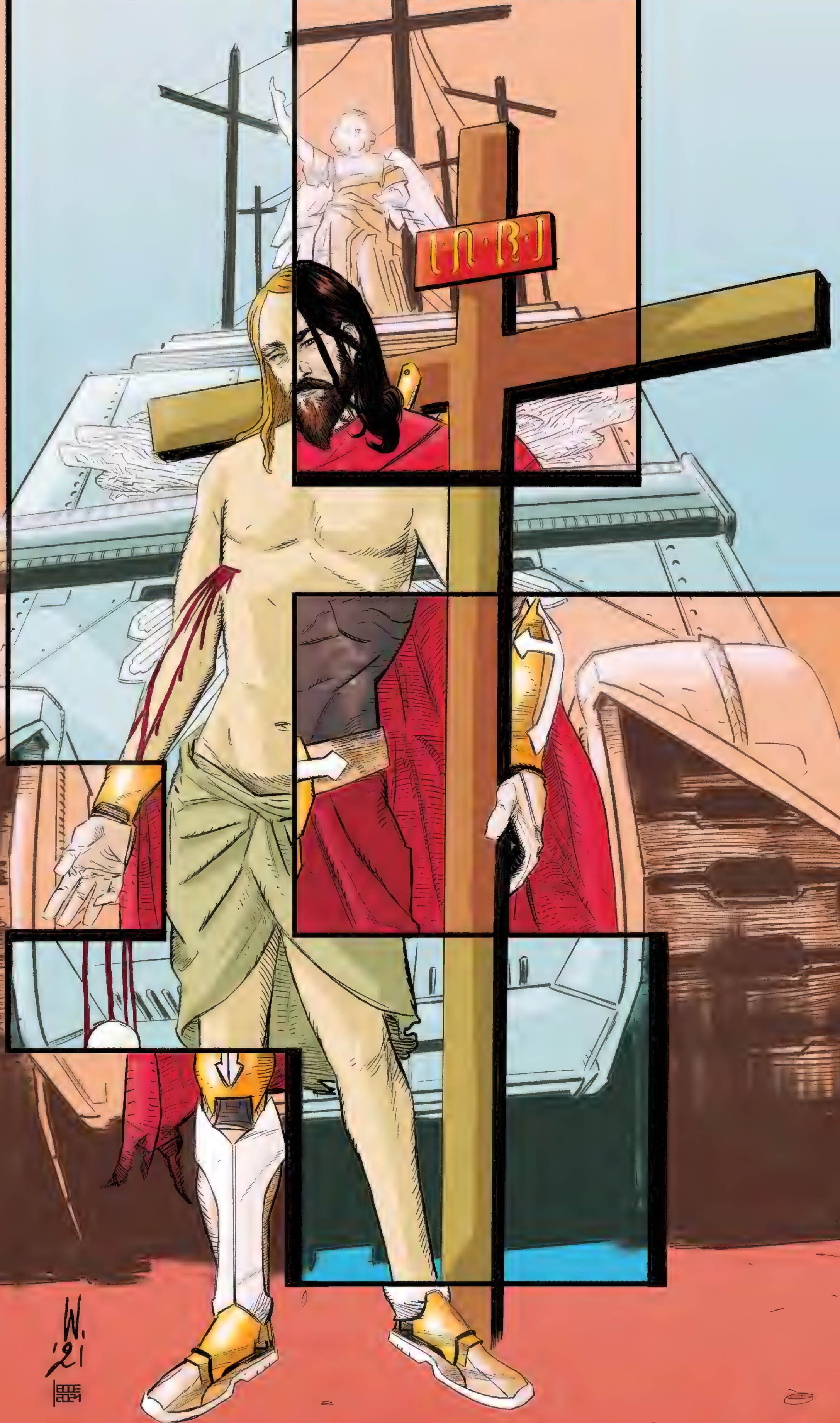

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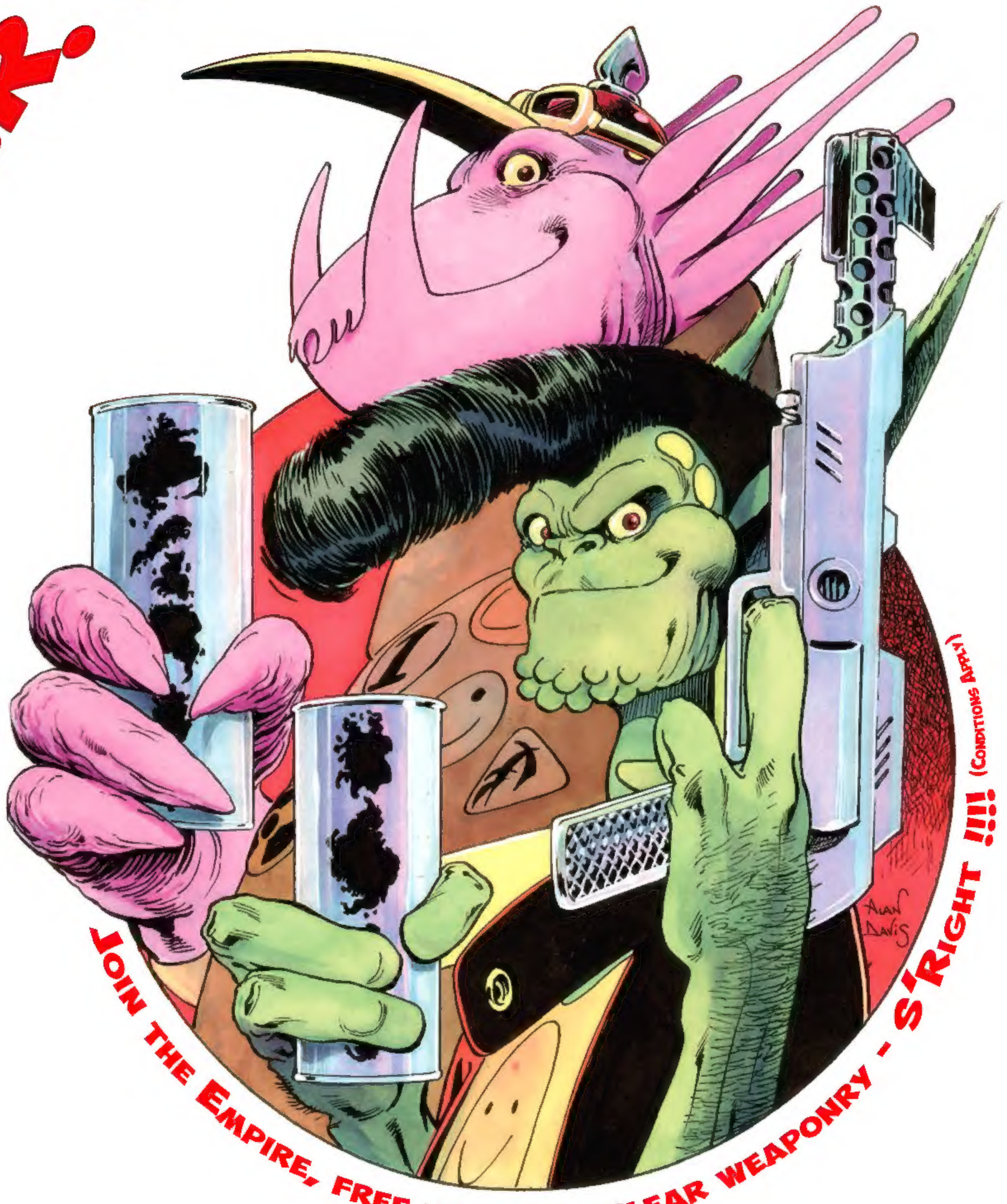

JOIN THE EMPIRE, FREE THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONRY - S'RIGHT !!!! (CONDITIONS APPLY)

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